Secretary of the Committee. The Committee has been given three months time for submission of report.

"Dumping of Toxic Industrial Waste in the Country"

767. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Swedish companies are being investigated by authorities for allegedly dumping of toxic industrial waste in India;

(b) if so, whether there are two parallel official enquiries are underway; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to meet the threat of dumping waste in India by some of the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

News Item Captioned '78 Trees Axed in Hauz Khas'

768. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the "The Times of India" dated January 6, 1997, under the caption "78 trees axed in Hauz Khas";

(b) if so, whether it is against the Government's declared policy not to fell trees;

(c) if so, how the DDA's Horiticulture Department authorised a private contractor to fell 78 trees in the Rose Garden in Hauz Khas, and that too for a sum of Rs. 3500/- whereas their real worth is reported to be a minimum of Rs. 1.56 lakh;

(d) whether Government have taken any action against the DDA officials guilty of this serious crime; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir Felling of trees is not permissible without prior permission under "Delhi Tree preservation Act, 1994".

(c) to (e) DDA (Horticulture) has not obtained prior permission of the Tree Officer for the felling of trees under the "Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994". Forest Department, Government of NCT Delhi has asked DDA to identify the officials responsible for illicit fellings so that they can be proceeded against under the "Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994". According to the report of Conservator of Forest Delhi, the sum of Rs. 3500/- appears to be much less than the real worth of the felled trees. Meanwhile, World Wide Fund for Nature—India has filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court against DDA for unauthorised felling of trees in which Forest Department NCT Delhi has also been impleaded.

Animals in Zoos Suffering from Various Diseases

769. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to know about the animals including endangered species, suffering from various diseases in the zoos in the country and the extent to which the zoos are lacking in providing treatment to the suffering animals;

(b) if so, the percentage of the zoo animals suffering from various diseases and the nature of such diseases;